

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BRIAN ROBERT CENSALE,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANDRE E. JACKSON,

Defendant.

Case No. [17-cv-01363-KAW](#) (PR)

**ORDER SERVING COGNIZABLE
CLAIMS**

Plaintiff Brian Robert Censale, a pretrial detainee incarcerated at the San Mateo County Jail, has filed a *pro se* civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging the violation of his constitutional rights by Andre Jackson, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Administration Classification Sergeant. Plaintiff has consented to the jurisdiction of the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge over this action. Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted in a separate order. The Court now reviews Plaintiff's complaint.

DISCUSSION

I. Preliminary Review of Complaint

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* § 1915A(b)(1), (2). *Pro se* pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only "a short and plain statement of the

claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” “Specific facts are not necessary; the statement need only ““give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.”” *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 93 (2007).

To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

Liability may be imposed on an individual defendant under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 if the plaintiff can show that the defendant’s actions both actually and proximately caused the deprivation of a federally protected right. *Lemire v. Cal. Dept. Corrections & Rehabilitation*, 756 F.3d 1062, 1074 (9th Cir. 2013); *Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 634 (9th Cir. 1988). A person deprives another of a constitutional right within the meaning of section 1983 if he does an affirmative act, participates in another's affirmative act or omits to perform an act which he is legally required to do, that causes the deprivation of which the plaintiff complains. *Leer*, 844 F.2d at 633.

Under no circumstances is there respondeat superior liability under § 1983. *Lemire*, 756 F.3d at 1074. Or, in layman's terms, under no circumstances is there liability under section 1983 solely because one is responsible for the actions or omissions of another. *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989); *Ybarra v. Reno Thunderbird Mobile Home Village*, 723 F.2d 675, 680-81 (9th Cir. 1984). A supervisor may be liable under § 1983 upon a showing of (1) personal involvement in the constitutional deprivation or (2) a sufficient causal connection between the supervisor's wrongful conduct and the constitutional violation. *Henry A. v. Willden*, 678 F.3d 991, 1003-04 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1207 (9th Cir. 2011)).

II. Plaintiff’s Claim

Plaintiff’s complaint alleges the following: Plaintiff is representing himself in his state criminal case. The state court has ordered that Plaintiff has the right to make telephone calls in connection with his case five hours per week. Beginning in December 2015, jail personnel required Plaintiff to make his legal phone calls from cell HC7. This is a cell that is used for intake

1 into the jail and for inmates who are disruptive. The cell is not cleaned by the janitorial staff and
2 smells of urine, feces, vomit, spit and piled-up garbage. The smell is so bad that it is difficult for
3 Plaintiff to breathe.

4 Plaintiff filed a state habeas action about the condition of the cell. In response to the
5 habeas action, Defendant Sgt. Andre Jackson submitted a May 26, 2016 declaration stating, "In
6 the event that Mr. Censale complains to staff that a holding cell where he is taken to complete
7 legal phone calls is unsanitary, staff have been instructed to review and appropriately respond to
8 his complaint." Plaintiff wrote to Sgt. Jackson several times after May 26, 2016 explaining that
9 the condition of the cell has not improved and that staff ignore his requests to clean the cell.
10 Apparently, Sgt. Jackson has not responded to Plaintiff or instructed the staff to clean the cell.
11 Presently, the cell is in a disgusting condition and it is "obvious" that staff leave it in that
12 condition deliberately. Keeping the cell in this unsanitary condition creates a health hazard and
13 imposes an undue hardship on Plaintiff to prosecute his state case.

14 Liberally construed, the allegations in the complaint appear to give rise to constitutional
15 claims based on unsanitary conditions of confinement and lack of access to the courts against Sgt.
16 Jackson because he allegedly knew about the constitutional violations and took no steps to remedy
17 the situation.

18 CONCLUSION

19 1. The allegations in the complaint appear to give rise to cognizable claims for unsanitary
20 conditions of confinement and lack of access to the courts against Sgt. Andre Jackson.

21 2. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of
22 Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy of the complaint
23 (docket no. 1) and all attachments thereto, a copy of this Order, and a copy of the form "Consent
24 or Declination to Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction" to Sgt. Andre Guzman at the San Mateo County
25 Jail. This form can also be found at www.cand.uscourts.gov/civilforms. The Clerk shall also mail
26 a copy of the complaint and a copy of this Order to the Office of the San Mateo County Counsel,
27 and a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

28 3. Defendant is cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires him

1 to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and complaint. Pursuant to
2 Rule 4, if Defendant, after being notified of this action and asked by the Court, on behalf of
3 Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons, fails to do so, he will be required to bear the cost of
4 such service unless good cause be shown for his failure to sign and return the waiver forms. If
5 service is waived, this action will proceed as if Defendant had been served on the date that the
6 waiver is filed, except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(A)(ii), Defendant will not be required to
7 serve and file an answer before sixty days from the date on which the request for waiver was sent.
8 (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required if formal service of summons is
9 necessary.)

10 Defendant is advised to read the statement set forth at the foot of the waiver form that more
11 completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to waiver of service of the summons. If
12 service is waived after the date provided in the Notice but before Defendant has been personally
13 served, the answer shall be due sixty days from the date on which the request for waiver was sent
14 or twenty days from the date the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

15 4. Defendant shall file his Consent or Declination to Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction on or
16 before the date his answer is due.

17 5. The following briefing schedule shall govern dispositive motions in this action:

18 a. No later than thirty days from the date his answer is due, Defendant shall file a
19 motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. If Defendant files a motion for
20 summary judgment, it shall be supported by adequate factual documentation and shall conform in
21 all respects to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56. If Defendant is of the opinion that this case
22 cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the Court prior to the date the
23 summary judgment motion is due. All papers filed with the Court shall be promptly served on
24 Plaintiff.

25 At the time of filing the motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion,
26 Defendant shall comply with the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934 (9th
27 Cir. 2012), and provide Plaintiff with notice of what is required of him to oppose a summary
28 judgment motion.

1 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the motion for summary judgment or other dispositive
2 motion shall be filed with the Court and served on Defendant no later than twenty-eight days after
3 the date on which Defendant's motion is filed. The Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice
4 should be given to *pro se* plaintiffs facing a summary judgment motion:

5 The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which they seek to have
6 your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules
7 of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

8 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment.
9 Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material
10 fact -- that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your
11 case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law,
12 which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary
13 judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot
14 simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in
15 declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as
16 provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and
17 documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not
18 submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be
19 entered against you. If summary judgment is granted [in favor of the defendants], your
20 case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

21 *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).

22 Before filing his opposition, Plaintiff is advised to read the notice that will be provided to
23 him by Defendant when the motion is filed, and Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
24 and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (party opposing summary judgment must come
25 forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his
26 claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that because he bears the burden of proving his allegations in this
27 case, he must be prepared to produce evidence in support of those allegations when he files his
28 opposition to Defendant's summary judgment motion. Such evidence may include sworn
29 declarations from himself and other witnesses to the incident, copies of documents authenticated
30 by sworn declaration or discovery. Plaintiff will not be able to avoid summary judgment simply
31 by repeating the allegations of his complaint.

32 c. Defendant shall file a reply brief no later than fourteen days after the date
33 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

34 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No

1 hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

2 6. Discovery may be taken in this action in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
3 Procedure. No further court order pursuant to Rule 30(a)(2) or Local Rule 16 is required before
4 the parties may conduct discovery.

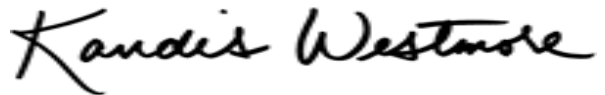
5 7. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendant, or
6 Defendant's counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to
7 Defendant or his counsel.

8 8. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court
9 informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper with the clerk headed "Notice of
10 Change of Address," and must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so
11 may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
12 Procedure 41(b).

13 9. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable extensions will be granted. Any
14 motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than three days prior to the deadline sought
15 to be extended.

16
17
18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 Dated: June 28, 2017



KANDIS A. WESTMORE
United States Magistrate Judge